

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS et al

Atty. Ref.: 2551-130

Serial No. Divisional of Serial No. 09/566,266

Group: Unassigned

Filed: October 16, 2003

Examiner: Unassigned

For: MULTI-MER PEPTIDES DERIVED FROM HEPATITIS C  
VIRUS ENVELOPE PROTEINS FOR DIAGNOSTIC USE  
AND VACCINATION PURPOSES

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October 16, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Preliminarily amend the above-identified application as follows.